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Charles Jeremy Hoadly, LL.D.

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Charles Jeremy Hoadly, LL.D.

A Memoir

By

W. N. CHATTIN CARLTON, M.A.

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Deceased

Charles Jeremy Hoadly

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At a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Acorn Club in Hartford, October 22, 1900, it was Voted, That the Secretary of the Club prepare a Memoir of our late Honorary Member, Charles J. Hoadly, LL.D., and that the Club issue it as a regular publication, accompanied by a portrait or portraits of Dr. Hoadly.

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ALTHOUGH the lifetime of the subject of this memoir exceeded the traditional three-score years and ten, it was marked by no series of eventful changes, nor large participation in the public affairs of the state whose official he was for more than forty-five years. In those spheres of the world's life wherein most men must perforce be active, with whose activities they must necessarily concern themselves, and success in which is popularly regarded as the sign manual of greatness, his name was never conspicuous. He chose the quiet, retired life of a scholar and lived it with an unswerving precision that reminds one of the philosopher of Königsberg. Heine's description of Kant might, with a change of only a word or two, apply with almost equal fitness to Dr. Hoadly. "Die Lebensgeschichte des Immanuel Kant," says the German critic, " ist schwer zu beschreiben. Denn er hatte weder Leben noch Geschichte. Er lebte ein mechanisch geordnetes, fast abstraktes Hage-stolzenleben in einem stillen abgelegenen Gässchen zu Königsberg. Ich glaube nicht dass die grosse Uhr der dortigen Kathedrale leidenschaftsloser und regelmässiger ihr äusseres Tagewerk vollbrachte, wie ihr Landsmann Immanuel Kant. . . . Alles hatte seine bestimmte

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Zeit, und die Nachbaren wussten ganz genau, dass die Glocke halb vier sei, wenn Immanuel Kant. . . . aus seiner Hausthüre trat. . . . Die guten Leute sahen in ihm nichts Anderes als einen Professor der Philosophie, und wenn er zur bestimmten Stunde vorbeiwandelte, grüssten sie freundlich, und richteten etwa nach ihm ihre Taschenuhr."[1] In like manner viewing external features only, it may be said that the average citizen of Hartford saw in Dr. Hoadly only a learned antiquarian whose memory was stored with the history and traditions of the past; who was familiar with and could distinguish the handwriting of every early Connecticut settler, who could explain the significance of the color of a seventeenth century wax seal; but whose mind and interests were far removed from the busy, practical life of his own day. His regularity also was proverbial among those who knew him, and his fellow townsmen would not have been far wrong had they set their timepieces by him, as the good citizens of Königsberg did by their philosopher. He took only one extended vacation. An attempt at another proved a failure; he was back at his post before a week was out. There is no doubt but that in this quiet, retired, and uneventful life Dr. Hoadly found more pleasure and content than falls to the lot of most men.

He took a just and honorable pride in his ancestry and did much toward adding to our knowledge of the

[1] *Zur Geschichte der Religion und Philosophie in Deutschland.*

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history of the Hoadley family and of its chief representatives in this country and in England. He was the proud possessor of the original parchment of the grant of arms to the English Hoadleys. A peculiarity of his own was that he insisted upon spelling the name Hoadly instead of Hoadley, the form adopted by almost all other members of the family. The name is thought to be derived from one of two parishes in Sussex, East and West Hoadley (now spelled Hoathly), and the family undoubtedly had its origin in the south of England. In New England the earliest settlers of the name were John of Guilford and William of Branford. It is probable that these two emigrants were related, but no evidence is extant which substantiates the fact.

John Hoadley was a non-conforming clergyman of the Church of England. He came to America in 1639 with the Rev. Henry Whitfield, who, having refused to read the *Book of Sports*, resigned his rectory, sold his estate, and, accompanied by a number of persons from Surrey, Sussex, and Kent, embarked for New England. In July, 1639, they landed at New Haven, from, it is said, "the first ship that ever cast anchor in that port." This company founded the town of Guilford. The increase of the church there was very slow until 1643, when seven "pillars" were chosen to draw up a doctrine of faith. John Hoadley was one of these seven. After remaining some sixteen years, he returned to England, became chaplain to General Monk,

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and was conspicuous as a partisan of the royalist cause.[2]

John's son Samuel, born in Guilford, was the first native of Connecticut who wrote and published a book. His *Natural Method of Teaching, being the Accidence in Questions and Answers. London, 1683*, a kind of English and Latin grammar combined, was one of the most popular school books of the eighteenth century. In 1773 it reached its eleventh edition. This Samuel had, by his second wife, a family of nine children. Among them were John, successively archbishop of Dublin and of Armagh, and Benjamin, bishop of Bangor. Dr. Hoadly was especially proud of his distant connection with this famous bishop, who was truly enough, as Leslie Stephen observes, "the best hated clergyman of the [18th] century among his own order."[3] It was this Benjamin Hoadley's memorable sermon *On the Kingdom of Christ*, preached before the King in March, 1717, that precipitated the historic Bangorian Controversy. Therein he set forth with great clearness and vigor doctrines quite subversive of the whole theory and position of the High

[2] "Hon. Charles J. Hoadly has interesting information which he will publish soon, showing that substantial benefits rendered the cause of Charles II. by Rev. John Hoadley were remembered by succeeding monarchs, and in part account for the peculiar favors shown the grandsons of John Hoadley by royalty." *Proceedings at the 250th Anniversary of the Settlement of Guilford, Connecticut, Sept. 8–10, 1889.* Note, p. 223.

[3] *History of English Thought*, 2 : 152.

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Church party. It is probable that no other sermon ever produced so voluminous a controversy, or excited in clerical circles so prolonged an agitation. Bishop Hoadley was openly supported by the King and the court. When the Lower House of Convocation drew up a severe and elaborate remonstrance against the sermon it was promptly prorogued, and although the House continued to be formally assembled with every Parliament, more than a century passed before it again obtained a royal license enabling it to transact business.[4]

It was from William of Branford that Dr. Hoadly was descended. This settler, born in England about 1630, first appears at Saybrook in 1663. Three years later he bought the home-lot of Rev. Abraham Pierson, of Branford, and thenceforth throughout his life, the records show that he was one of the leading men in the community, taking a prominent part in all its civic and religious affairs.

His name appears on the new Plantation Covenant of Branford, January 20, 1667–8; in October, 1669, he was admitted a freeman of the Colony; later he became a selectman, and between 1678 and 1685 he represented his town at nine sessions of the General Assembly. On February 16, 1685–6, he was one of its patentees. In the time of Sir Edmond Andros he was one of the grand jurors at a court of quar-

[4] Lecky, *History of England in the 18th century*, 1887. 1 : 271, 272.

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ter sessions held at New Haven in June, 1688. He died in November or December, 1709, aged about 79 years, leaving an estate that was inventoried at £1,166. 3s. 2d.

Samuel, the son of William, was one of several to whom was granted on March 4, 1687, a parcel of land one mile square in the western and northwestern part of Branford. The two following generations of William's line pursued the careers of prosperous farmers.

The grandfather of Charles, Hon. Jeremy Hoadley, was born in Branford in 1776. In 1798 he married and for three years lived in Guilford. Thence he removed to Hartford in 1806, soon becoming one of its foremost and best known citizens. He was a selectman of the town for more than twenty years, an alderman of the city and its acting mayor from November 23, 1835, to April 13, 1836. He represented Hartford in the General Assembly at the sessions of 1822, 1823, 1826, and 1828, and from the latter year until 1834 he held the responsible office of sheriff of Hartford county. During the presidential campaigns of 1836 and 1840 he was chairman of the Whig state central committee. He was a devout and loyal Churchman, being one of the early vestrymen of the parish of Christ church, and the last of the "clerks" appointed to lead the responses and to give out the psalms and hymns. His son, William Henry Hoadley, was born in Guilford in 1800. He married Harriet Louisa Hillyer, and their eldest son was Charles Jeremy Hoadly.

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On his mother's side Dr. Hoadly was descended from well known colonial families. His maternal grandparents were Andrew Hillyer, a colonel in the war of the revolution, and Lucy Tudor. The latter's father, Dr. Elihu Tudor of South Windsor, Connecticut, was a graduate of Yale (1750) and one of the best educated physicians of his time. During the French war he served as surgeon with the British forces and was with General Wolfe when that hero fell at Quebec. With his son-in-law, Colonel Hillyer, Dr. Tudor was also present at the siege and capture of Havana, August 13, 1762, by the English fleet under Admiral Pococke and the Duke of Albemarle. He received half pay from the British government from his retirement in 1767 till his death in 1826 at the advanced age of ninety-three years, and it is said that the Treasury officials once sent special inquiries as to whether he could still be living. The lives of Dr. Tudor and his granddaughter, the mother of Dr. Hoadly, covered a period of one hundred and eighty-five years, more than twenty of which overlapped. Dr. Tudor's wife was Lucretia Brewster, a direct descendant of William Brewster, Chief of the Pilgrims.

Charles Jeremy Hoadly was born in Hartford on August 1, 1828. His preparatory education was obtained at the Hopkins Grammar School in that city, and in 1847 he entered Trinity College in the same place. His academic career was a distinguished one and left a marked impress on all his later life. In

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1849 he gained the President's Prize for the best Latin rendering of a passage from Lord Bacon's essay *On Studies*. The prize was a set of Dyce's Shakespeare, and was always carefully treasured by its owner, who gave it a prominent place on his bookshelves. He was graduated at the head of his class in 1851, delivering on that occasion the valedictory oration. At Commencement in 1854 he received the degree of Master of Arts in Course, taking as the subject of his master's oration *The Laws of the XII Tables*.

Upon leaving college he entered the office of Henry Barnard, then superintendent of public instruction, and at the same time took up the study of the law with Messrs. Welch and Shipman. In 1854 he was appointed librarian of Trinity College. Early in 1855 he was admitted to the bar by Judge, afterwards Chief Justice, Seymour, but he never entered upon the active practice of this profession, for in April of the same year he was called to the position of State Librarian in succession to James Hammond Trumbull. His classical education and legal training had given him the best of preparation for this position, and at the age of twenty-seven he entered upon his duties admirably equipped for the tasks that lay before him. And in no sense were these light or unimportant ones.

The Resolution of the General Assembly, passed at its May session, 1854, authorizing the State Library Committee to appoint a librarian, outlined the latter's duties as follows: "to take charge of the State Library,

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to arrange, catalogue, and index the same, and to have bound such unbound books or works belonging to the library as the said committee shall deem to be of sufficient value to the State to warrant the expense; also to make such State and national exchanges of books and works as are now required by law; also to discharge the duties required of the secretary of State under the registration laws relating to births, marriages, and deaths, and to make report to the next General Assembly on all matters embraced within this resolution."

The condition of the State Library at that time was not one in which Connecticut could take pride. The whole number of volumes, including those prepared for binding, was about three thousand. At the state house in New Haven there were some fifteen hundred more, chiefly duplicates. The situation had been clearly set forth by Dr. Trumbull in his report to the General Assembly at its May session in 1855. "As yet, Connecticut has only the beginnings of a library, not entirely complete in any of its departments, and in some, very deficient—far from being adequate to supply necessary books of reference to the legislators, judges, State officers, and others who have occasion to resort to it. Its increase has been, necessarily, very slow, having been mainly dependent on exchanges with other States, [and] the receipt of public documents and other works distributed by Congress. . . . No provision has been made for pur-

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chasing, nor (until last year) for binding even the more indispensable volumes of almost daily reference; and it is almost incredible that, up to the present time, no authorized measures have been taken to secure the preservation, in the State Library or elsewhere in any department of either capitol, of a single complete copy of the statute laws, annual messages and reports of judicial decisions, even *of the State of Connecticut*, (except a resolution, passed in 1847, authorizing the purchase of such volumes of the 'Connecticut Reports' as were necessary to make the broken series, then in the Library, complete.)" With what diligence and vigor Dr. Hoadly prosecuted the work of remedying these defects may be gathered even from the brief and modest report that he presented to the Assembly at the end of his first year of service. Therein he was able to say that the number of volumes in the Library had nearly doubled, "so that an entire rearrangement has been necessary, which has accordingly been made The Library has nearly completed the series of Judicial Reports of the several States, and at present Connecticut makes exchanges with every State where the decisions are reported." "Great care has been taken for the preservation of the books, none being permitted to be taken from the building, save by the Judges, or upon the order of a member of the Library Committee, and none to leave the Library room without a memorandum thereof made." The efficiency of his guardianship is attested by the fact that during his

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forty years' service but one volume was missed from the Library, and that was found behind a row of other books by his successor.

In accordance with the resolution of the General Assembly passed in 1854, Dr. Hoadly, from 1855 to 1878, prepared annually the "Report to the General Assembly relating to the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths." Upon the creation of the State Board of Health this work naturally devolved upon the members of that body.

Dr. Hoadly early determined upon a definite and sound policy for the development of the Library committed to his charge, and excepting in a few minor details never departed from it. The State Library Committee were inclined to think it sufficient to supply compilations and abridged or condensed series of law reports. Their Librarian, however, was more far-seeing as well as better informed. He insisted upon purchasing, whenever possible, only the full, complete, and original reports, even though it might be at a greater expense of money and of time in waiting for an opportunity of obtaining them. This enlightened policy resulted in his finally acquiring complete sets of the originals of all official American reports, practically complete series of those for England, Scotland, and Ireland, and also those of Canada so far as they have a bearing upon our law and jurisprudence.

In his first annual report he asked for authoriza-

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tion to begin the purchase of collections of statutes. Whether granted or not he at once commenced to do so, and pursued the same policy as in the case of the law reports. His aim was to procure every official revision and every issue of the session laws of the United States and of the individual states and territories; and also of the United Kingdom and the Dominion of Canada. As all students of legal bibliography well know, complete success in such an endeavor is practically impossible, but Dr. Hoadly attained an astonishing closeness to it. To furnish these reports and statutes was, as he conceived it, the main purpose of the library. He believed that it should be, first of all, a complete and thoroughly equipped special collection for the use of legislators, judges, and members of the legal profession. Later on, he began to gather small but valuable collections relating to the general and local history of Connecticut, the documentary histories and state papers of sister commonwealths, and complete editions of the writings of the fathers of the republic and of the more prominent later statesmen.

To him, the principle of completeness was a vital one. In his view it was quite immaterial how *many* volumes a library contained; the chief point he cared for or wished to know about was the degree of completeness in the documents and literature of the subjects it professed to include or to represent. The truly great library was the one which embraced most

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fully the literary materials for the study and investigation of one or more subjects. In theory this position is impregnable. Wherever such a policy can be put into effect it results in noble service to scholarship and human progress, but the places are extremely few where it can be applied. In most libraries, general or institutional, satisfactory completeness in special departments can be obtained only by means of specific endowments. Dr. Hoadly was fortunate in being able to carry out this policy with neither hindrance nor interruption. It must have afforded him keen satisfaction to know, as for many years he did know, that as regards completeness, few state libraries in the Union equaled and none surpassed that of Connecticut. Nor was it in American law alone that it excelled. An English author,[5] whose wide researches have made him an authority on the subject, states positively that with the exception of the British Museum, Oxford, and Cambridge University libraries, no collection in Great Britain is so well equipped with printed materials for the study of English constitutional history as is the one of which Dr. Hoadly was the real creator. Making all due allowance for the support which he received from successive governors and legislatures, the chief credit for the state library's excellence is due to him. It is pleasant to record that this was cordially recognized during his lifetime and is not yet entirely forgotten.

[5] Edward Porritt, Esq.

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In this connection it is fitting to record the service he rendered to the library of Trinity College. Although his librarianship there lasted but a year his personal interest in it ceased only with his death. For many years he was the representative of the trustees on the library committee, and a very large number of the works added during that time seem to have been purchased by his direct order and on his sole responsibility. Here, too, he carried out his favorite policy of selecting a few definite subjects and making their representation as strong and complete as possible. The subjects chosen in this case strongly reflect his personal likings. They indicate especially his predilection for the classics, mathematics, and the antiquarian or historical side of certain sciences. His influence on the college library is especially to be seen in its curious and interesting collections of early medical works, books on alchemy and astrology; in its very complete series of the collected works of ancient, mediæval, and modern mathematicians, astronomers, physicists, and chemists, as well as in many valuable compends relating to classical archaeology and inscriptions. He also urged the purchase of all the important lexicons of the modern languages of Europe, and as a consequence, the library now possesses an excellent collection of such works.

His personal gifts of books were many and frequent. For the most part they supplemented the departments he was chiefly interested in building up

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and completing. The total number of volumes presented by him during his lifetime was very large, and must have represented a considerable sum of money. During his stay in London he purchased a beautiful copy of the *Thesaurus Græcæ Linguæ a Henrico Stephano constructus*, in the edition revised and augmented by the Dindorfs and printed by Firmin Didot at Paris in 1851. The nine imposing folio volumes of which this magnificent work consists is the first sight that now greets the student's eye as he enters the Greek alcove in the college library. Of the scores of other works given by him the following titles, selected from the gifts of the last eighteen months of his life, will serve to indicate the class of literature he was fond of gathering:

Junianus Maius. In Librum de priscorum proprietate verborum Prologus. Tarvisiæ, 1477. Folio. Beautifully illuminated.

Syllius (*sic*) Italicus. Punicorum Libri XVII. Venetiis, 1492. Folio.

Collection of State Papers Relating to Affairs in the Reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth, 1542–1596, left by William Cecil, Lord Burghley. 2 vols. London, 1740–59. Folio.

State Tracts published on Occasion of the Late Revolution in 1688 and During the Reign of King William III. 3 vols. London, 1705–7. Folio.

Sir Ralph Winwood. Memorials of Affairs of State in the Reigns of Queen Elizabeth and James I. 3 vols. London, 1725.

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J. Macpherson. Original Papers; Containing the Secret History of Great Britain from the Restoration to the Accession of the House of Hanover. 2 vols. 1775. Quarto.

Sir Robert Cotton. Exact Abridgement of the Records in the Tower of London. London, 1657. Folio.

George Cheyney. Fluxionum Methodus Inversa. London, 1603. Small quarto.

Roger Cotes. Harmonia Mensuram. Edidit R. Smith. Cambridge, 1722. Quarto.

Of the great series of photographic reproductions of classical and other manuscripts now being issued at Leyden, Dr. Hoadly presented the volumes containing facsimiles of the oldest extant manuscripts of Plato, Plautus, and the Septuagint version of the Old Testament. After his death the library received, in accordance with directions left by him, his treasured copy of the *Acts and Laws of the Colony of Counecticut*, printed at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1673, one of the rarest of American incunabula; and also the original manuscript of Lieutenant Lion Gardiner's *Relation* of the Pequot War.

In the words of one who knew him well and who was constantly associated with him in its direction, "there is no part of the library which is especially worthy of notice that does not show both his skill in selecting and his generosity in giving.[6]

[6] Rev. Samuel Hart, D.D.

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Although the work of organizing and building up the state library would seem to have been sufficient to have kept him fully occupied at the outset of his career, Dr. Hoadly was, at the same time, engaged in transcribing and editing the early records of New Haven Colony. The work was published in two volumes, the first of which appeared in 1857, the second a year later. It embraced the records of the colony while it remained distinct, the beginning of the records of the Jurisdiction, and the records of the Town or Plantation to 1664. The second volume included a reprint of *New Haven's Settling in New-England. And some Lawes for Government.* London, 1656. The quality of the editing in this, his earliest contribution to the printed sources of the history of Connecticut, reflects the highest credit upon his scholarship and judgment. It shows us, too, that the young scholar was not only abreast of his time in methods of editing historical manuscripts, but that he was in some respects in advance of many of his contemporaries. His work was planned and executed in almost exactly the same manner in which a similar work would be done to-day by a trained historical specialist. The words of his preface are notable in this connection, for the method which they describe was by no means prevalent at the date they were written. "In executing the task of editing these records," he said, "accuracy has been the chief thing aimed at, and to obtain this neither time nor labor has been spared;

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every page has been carefully compared by the editor with the original; contractions and abbreviations have been followed, but with regard to the use of capital letters and marks of punctuation, it has not been deemed necessary strictly to adhere to the copy; still, however, this liberty has been used with caution, and the editor has not knowingly altered the sense of any passage thereby, preferring in all instances where such might be the case, to let the original punctuation prevail." [7]

During the troublous years of the civil war Dr. Hoadly took no active part in public affairs. That he was ready and willing to do so if occasion required is attested by the fact that in the executive correspondence of Governor Buckingham there is a note from Mr. Hoadly offering his services in any capacity in which he might be of use to his state and country.

He had succeeded James Hammond Trumbull in the office of State Librarian, and he now took up in succession to the same scholar the great task of editing the colonial records of Connecticut. Between

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[7] Compare with this the following passage: "How are we to proceed in order to construct the best possible text? . . . There is nothing to do but to reproduce the text with absolute fidelity. This rule is not absolute. The editor is generally accorded the right of unifying the spelling of an autograph document — provided that he informs the public of the fact — wherever, as in most modern documents, orthographical vagaries possess no philological interest." *Langlois and Seignobos. Introduction to the Study of History*, 1898, p. 75.

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1850 and 1859 Dr. Trumbull had published three volumes containing the extant records from 1636 to 1689. This invaluable addition to the accessible sources of early New England history, carefully and accurately copied from the already crumbling pages of the originals, had been given a prompt and cordial welcome by those best fitted to judge of its value and importance. In the *North American Review* Professor Francis Bowen of Harvard had said: "Their publication is at once an office of piety, the erection of a monument to those whose memory ought to live forever in the commonwealth which they founded, and a service for which the future student of history will be grateful. It is the most appropriate and truthful eulogy that could be inscribed on the tombstones of the sleeping fathers of Connecticut."[8] Dr. Hoadly was beyond question the man best qualified by temperament and ability, and by possession of the special knowledge requisite, to continue the great work so ably begun by Dr. Trumbull. With what diligence and thoroughness he carried on and brought the undertaking to a successful conclusion all students of our history are well aware. All who have ever examined his work closely well know the remarkable qualities that it exhibits. The accurate transcription of the originals, every page copied by his own hand; the extraordinary amount of minute and exact knowledge of everything per-

[8] *North American Review*, 71 : 34.

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taining to our early history and first settlers, the wide acquaintance with documents in collections of archives outside of Connecticut, — all this is evidenced throughout the series of printed volumes which appeared at intervals of one or two years from 1868 to 1890. In their modest prefaces, which rarely exceed a page or two in length, and are couched in the most impersonal of tones, there is neither hint nor mention of the enormous amount of time and labor that must certainly have been expended upon them. In the last, he closes with this brief note: "With this volume terminates the series of Colonial Records of Connecticut, the publication of which was begun forty years ago. My editorial labors commenced with volume fourth, 1689–1706, which appeared in 1868. To all who have in any way aided the work I return sincere thanks." It is seldom indeed that we find so striking an instance of self-repression and absence of personal idiosyncracy. In his published work Dr. Hoadly proved himself an exemplar of that rarest of literary virtues, and most admirable of all virtues, — modesty. The *Colonial Records* are his best monument. His successors will find it difficult to maintain the high standard he has set in such work. Imitation of externals is all that is left to others; they may introduce superficial innovations, but none will excel him in the quality of his work or in the learning with which he approached it. His personality may be forgotten, his material creations

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may vanish from the earth, but his labors on the records of the commonwealth will endure as long as that commonwealth has sons to love and reverence its past.

Shortly after the publication of the concluding volume of colonial records, upon the motion of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the General Assembly of Connecticut passed the following resolution:

"*Resolved by this Assembly:* That Charles J. Hoadly of Hartford be authorized to continue the publication of state records, together with the journal of the Council of Safety, and any other state documents, or other official papers connected with the history of Connecticut from 1776 to 1789 inclusive; and the secretary of state is hereby requested to furnish all needed assistance and co-operation for the speedy completion of the work.

Approved, February 23, 1893."

The first volume resulting from this resolution appeared in the following year, and a second, bringing the records down to 1780, was published in 1895. A third volume, entirely ready for the press with the exception of a few notes which it was his intention to add, was left in manuscript at the time of his death. These volumes exhibit the same care and accuracy that marked their predecessors, and the notes show the editor's wonderfully minute knowledge of our revolutionary history.

Dr. Hoadly issued the *New Haven Records* and

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the *Colonial Records* at his own expense, the State agreeing to purchase a certain number of copies of each volume. At the time of his death there were in his possession about eleven hundred volumes of the various issues. These have since been presented to the Connecticut Historical Society with the condition that the proceeds from their sale shall be set aside to form a memorial fund, the income of which shall be used only for the purchase of books.

The titles of his minor works and historical essays are given in full at the end of this Memoir and need not be repeated here. One or two, however, are deserving of especial mention. In 1874 he edited Gershom Bulkeley's famous *Will and Doom, or the Miseries of Connecticut by and under an usurped and arbitrary power*, written in 1692. It was intended that this should form part of the third volume of the Connecticut Historical Society's Collections; but when nearly ready for issue, the printing office where the work was being done was consumed by fire. By rare good fortune, a set of the proof-sheets of the *Will and Doom* was in Dr. Hoadly's hands and so escaped destruction. In 1895 this third volume was reprinted under his editorship, the cost being defrayed by Ex-Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley and his brother William H. Bulkeley, and by them presented to the Society.

Under a resolution of the General Assembly passed in 1870, Dr. Hoadly and D. W. Edgecomb

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were appointed a committee "to prepare and cause to be published . . . the private laws of the state of Connecticut, passed since the compilation of 1856, to form an additional volume or volumes thereto." The committee issued two volumes in compliance with this resolution, personally comparing every act with the record, or with the original or engrossed bill. In the first volume, besides the private laws, the committee added a list of the banks organized under the Free Banking Law of 1852, and the acts providing for the Cession of Jurisdiction to the United States of portions of the territory of Connecticut. The second volume contained an interesting appendix, giving the names, location, and date either of the organization or of the filing of the certificate, of all corporations formed under general laws, to the end of the year 1870. These volumes are commonly known and referred to as Volumes V and VI of the Special Laws of Connecticut.

A loyal Churchman throughout his life, Dr. Hoadly was a member and very regular attendant of Christ Church, Hartford, as his father and grandfather had been before him. When, therefore, in 1879, the parish celebrated the semi-centennial of the consecration of the church, he undertook the writing of its annals. To him it was not a task, but a labor of love. The finished essay is an excellent example of his methods. From land records, parish registers, court records, diaries, newspapers, advertisements,

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graveyard inscriptions, and many another scattered, out-of-the-way source, he gathered up every possible fact bearing upon the subject in hand, until, at the end, there appeared a model history of the Episcopal Church in Hartford from 1762 to 1829.

His one visit to England and the continent took place in 1879. One who was with him in London said that Dr. Hoadly's memory was better than a guide-book, for it never erred. Every street in the city proper had for him innumerable historical or literary associations. He knew the exact location of famous houses and the names of their past owners or occupants. Every spot on which had once occurred a memorable event seemed as familiar to him as if it had been in his native town. He never ceased to look back upon this tour with genuine pleasure, and was ever ready to recount (to good listeners) the incidents that befell him, or the impressions which he formed during his journey. He was accustomed to say that it was the only real vacation that he had ever taken in the course of his life.

In the early fall of 1898 Dr. Hoadly addressed the following letter to the State Library Committee:

Connecticut State Library,
Hartford, Sept. 1, 1898.

State Library Committee,

Gentlemen: I have had charge of this library since 1855, now upwards of forty-three years, which with one exception is the longest service of a state official in our history. I have entered on my seventy-

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first year and feel the weight of advancing age. Particularly, my sight has become much impaired. I therefore respectfully hereby tender the resignation of my office, to take effect so soon as you may please.

With thanks for many kindnesses received from you and your predecessors, I remain,

Your obedient servant,
Charles J. Hoadly.

As soon as this letter reached the hands of Governor Cooke, he at once communicated with Dr. Hoadly, urged him not to make it public, and assured him that assistance would be provided in the library in order that the last years of his service might not be burdensome to one who had served his state so long and so well. The other members of the Committee cordially endorsed the Governor's words. The resignation was withdrawn and the State Librarian remained in office until his death.

During 1899 his health became more and more impaired, and after several months of great feebleness he died about one o'clock on the afternoon of Friday, October 19, 1900.

In the foregoing pages little has been said of the personality of the man. Nor is this necessary. Posterity will be interested chiefly in his work, and not in his personality. As the former was strikingly impersonal, the latter can serve no purpose in the way of explaining it. Some characteristics, however, may be briefly indicated. As has been mentioned, he was gifted with a memory of unusual accuracy and tena-

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ciousness. To the end of his life he could repeat *verbatim* long extracts from Latin authors whose pages he had not looked at since his college days. He possessed a mind that worked analytically or synthetically with equal clearness and power. And to this he added extraordinary patience and diligence in research, sometimes waiting months and even years for an apparently trifling bit of information necessary to complete one of his illuminating footnotes.

Some have carpingly complained because he did not accomplish more, because he did not leave a larger body of literary work. It is difficult to be patient with such criticism, which exhibits a wilful ignorance of the purpose and significance of the true scholar's work. For the sake of impressing the many, he might have used his fine powers in the hasty production of a large amount of ephemeral, slipshod work; he might have, for a day, loomed large in the public eye by reason of striking but unscholarly articles in popular journals; by judicious self-advertisement he might have used his position as a means for notoriety; in his administration of the State Library he might even have so lowered himself as to seek for political approbation. But because he did none of these things lesser men criticise him.

What, then, did he do? As scholar and historian he occupied himself with the minute details of severely restricted fields of historical and legal investigation; preferring rather to work therein with care

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and accuracy than to treat larger subjects with brilliant inexactness. Instead of a host of unscholarly articles, he left a few volumes, pamphlets, and paragraphs whose intrinsic excellence and value are of a high order. Many writers, whose books fill long rows on library shelves, have given the world less of real value than is contained in the thin brochures and slight footnotes of Dr. Hoadly. Feeling honored in his position, he gave added dignity to it by identifying himself and his office with serious purposes. For that popular applause and noisy fame so hardly striven for by weaker men, he probably had no other feeling than contempt. He spoke his mind regardless of the effect upon the hearer, or, if repeated abroad, upon himself. Stories of his cutting replies have long been current. Possibly their recipients did not deserve them,— very probably they did. To the idly curious of all ranks he could address short and sharp rebukes. Considering what the world really owes to its patient, toiling scholars, they may well be forgiven if sometimes they show irritation and annoyance under the witless questioning of mediocrity. In the presence of scholarship it is the business of mediocrity to be silent; if it insists upon braying it must expect the almost certain consequences of its indiscretion. "I recall," says one who knew him intimately, "I recall the scorn with which he spoke of a certain would-be scholarly man who did not know what Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses* was (or were)." But a sincere seeker after

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knowledge who knew how to couch properly the language of his questions, rarely failed to receive help and guidance from Dr. Hoadly. That he could express things with masterly neatness of phrasing and circumlocution is well known to those who have listened to his criticisms of men and affairs, or to his explanation of the real circumstances surrounding or leading up to some event in local and state history. In speaking once of a library whose arrangements he did not admire, he remarked, "I will not say that it is arranged in the worst possible way, because I do not know the limits of human ingenuity."

The esteem in which the man and his work were held is evidenced by the positions he filled in the societies and organizations with which he was affiliated. For many years he was a vestryman of Christ church, Hartford, and from 1864 to 1879 clerk of the parish. With the work of his college and its graduates he kept in close touch throughout his life. From 1865 to his death he was a valued member of its board of trustees, and their secretary from 1865 to 1876, and again from 1888 to 1896. He was secretary of the Connecticut Beta of the Phi Beta Kappa from 1854 to 1862, and its president from 1862 to 1867. He was a member of the state historical societies of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota; of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, and an honorary

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or corresponding member of several local historical societies. In 1894, after serving as its corresponding secretary for many years, he was unanimously elected president of the Connecticut Historical Society, an office to which he was annually re-elected thereafter until his death. A lifelike oil portrait, presented by himself in accordance with a custom established by former presidents, now hangs in the hall of that society. The two portraits that accompany this Memoir are reproduced from photographs taken at about the ages of thirty-three and seventy-one respectively. Both are excellent likenesses.

Upon the formation of the Acorn Club in 1899 he manifested a cordial interest in its objects, and accepted a unanimous election as its first honorary member. At his death, there was entered on the records of the Club a minute which was in part as follows:

"The Acorn Club of Connecticut desires to place upon record its sense of the irreparable loss the Club has suffered through the decease, on October 19, 1900, of its sole honorary member, Charles Jeremy Hoadly, LL.D.

"The high positions that he has held, his general recognition as the foremost antiquarian and historical scholar of his native state, his important work as editor of sixteen volumes of the Connecticut Colony and State Records, and of the New Haven Colony Records, and as the author of several historical mono-

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graphs of high merit, — all indicate how great is Connecticut's loss through his death.

"To those of us who knew him well, this loss is a personal one. We recall with feelings of both pleasure and sadness his acts of personal kindness, and in particular his intense interest in this Club and its objects, which touched so closely upon subjects to which he had given a lifetime of painstaking study. He at all times gave it the benefit of his wise and kindly counsel, and in addition presented it with two of his historical essays, one of which he had the pleasure of seeing issued. As State Librarian he had consented to the use, for reissue by the Club, of certain rare volumes in his custody.

"His death, the first to occur in our membership, removes the Acorn Club's most distinguished member."

In 1879 Yale College conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts *honoris causa*, and ten years later his own college bestowed upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. Recognition such as this was very pleasing to him. From a remark that he once made to the writer of this Memoir, there is good reason to believe that he valued his honorary degrees as highly as any honors that ever came to him.

His modesty as regards his life and work is well shown in the brief autobiography that he wrote out a year or so before his death. In this volume it appears in print for the first time. He considered this a sufficient record, since he well knew that the only fame

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he could hope for would be a grateful appreciation of his work by later investigators of the subjects which had engaged his attention. He felt that they would profit by the results of his laborious researches, and recognize the patient industry, exact scholarship, and critical insight that had gone into the making of the volumes and essays to which his name was attached as author or editor. And who shall say that such a reward is not more lasting than any material monument? The scholar can have no greater, no more durable fame than the gratitude of successors whose labors have been lightened and paths made easier by reason of the excellence and thoroughness of his work.

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AUTOBIOGRAPHY[9]

Charles J. Hoadly, eldest son of William Henry and Harriet L. (Hillyer) Hoadley, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, August first, 1828. His grandfather, Jeremy Hoadley, who had removed to that town in 1806, from Guilford, was sheriff of Hartford county, 1828–34, and represented Hartford in the general assembly at four sessions. He was descended from William Hoadly, who was born about 1630, settled in Branford, Conn., about 1665, which town he represented at nine sessions of the legislature between 1678 and 1685, and died in 1709.

The first of the name of Hoadly who came to this country was John, born 1617, one of the first settlers of Guilford, Conn., 1639, "when the troubles of his country forced his family to New England." He was one of the "seven pillars" of the first church gathered in Guilford. He returned to Great Britain in 1653, was chaplain to Gen. Monk in Scotland, and died at Rolvenden, Kent, 1668. His eldest son, Samuel, born in Guilford September, 1643, educated at King James's college, Edinburgh, took orders in

[9] The Acorn Club is indebted to Mr. George S. Godard for permission to use this sketch of which he possesses the original.

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the church of England, and was at his death master of the free grammar school in the city of Norwich, England. Samuel Hoadly was the first native of Connecticut who wrote and published a book, *The Natural Method of Teaching, being the Accidence in Questions and Answers*, London, 1683, a once popular school manual, which reached its 11th edition before 1773. The eldest son of Rev. Samuel Hoadly died an undergraduate at Oxford; the second son was successively bishop of Bangor, Hereford, Salisbury, and Winchester; the third and youngest was successively bishop of Leighlin and Fernes, archbishop of Dublin, and archbishop of Armagh. The posterity of John the emigrant became extinct in the male line in 1776. What relation William bore to him is at present not certainly known, but family tradition makes them of the same stock.

Charles J. Hoadly was graduated at the head of his class in Trinity College, Hartford, 1851. During his college course he received the prize for Latin prose composition. He proceeded M.A. in 1854, and received the same degree from Yale, 1879. He was admitted to the bar in 1855, but never practiced, having had charge of the Connecticut State Library from the spring of that year. He edited the New Haven Colonial Records, 1638–65, 2 vols., and the Connecticut Colonial Records, 1689–1776 (vols. 4–15), 12 vols., and two volumes of Connecticut State Records, 1776–80. All the work of transcription,

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proofreading, indexing, etc., was done without assistance. He was one of the commissioners who prepared vols. 5 and 6 of the Special Laws of Connecticut. He published several short historical articles, among which were a Sketch of the Life of Silas Deane, in the Penn. Magazine of History, 1877, Annals of Christ Church, Hartford, 1879, Holidays in Connecticut, 1888, The Public Seal of Connecticut, 1889, Town Representation in the General Assembly, 1892, — the last three in the Connecticut Register for those years, — Some Early Post-mortem Examinations in N. E., read before the State Medical Society, 1892. He was a member of the State Historical Societies of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota, of the N. E. Historic Genealogical Society, and an honorary or corresponding member of several local historical societies. He never married.

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